

STATE OF COLORADO

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Jane E. Norton
Lieutenant Governor

FOR RELEASE:
March 23, 2004

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR NORTON, TIM FRITZ AND MIDGE COZZENS SUPPORT ColoradoFIRST™ AS COMMUNITY LEADERS

Leaders Recognize Goals of High School Robotics Competition Aimed at Encouraging Interest in Math, Science and Technology

(DENVER) – Lieutenant Governor Jane Norton; Tim Fritz, Director of the Colorado Office of Aerospace and Aeronautics; and Margaret (Midge) Cozzens, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Colorado Institute of Technology, are supporting the 2004 ColoradoFIRST™ program, which holds its inaugural regional robotics competition this Friday and Saturday.

ColoradoFIRST is the locally-implemented adaptation of a national program in which high school students, particularly those in inner-city, at-risk schools, participate in a robotics competition which encourages them to use math, science, and technology principles. In a little over 12 months, ColoradoFIRST added 15 new Colorado teams for a total of 18 teams. Included are three Denver Public Schools teams and seven of the highest poverty schools in their districts. The Inaugural Colorado Regional competition will host more than 40 teams, and expects 2,000 attendees.

“As Director Fritz and I have toured Colorado’s high tech companies, we have continually heard of the need to get more kids involved in math and science,” said Norton. “There are tremendous opportunities for our youth in these fields, and the ColoradoFIRST program creates unique relationships with positive role models and mentors who currently work in these fields.”

“I personally support the ColoradoFIRST program because the program makes math and science exciting for young people,” said Cozzens. “Empowered by their enthusiasm, the students are more likely to enter higher education programs in math, science and technology, such as those funded by CIT. Programs like ColoradoFIRST help build the pipeline that ensures a diverse base of technology workforce and researchers for the state and the nation.”

“Colorado needs a broad and diverse base of inventors, scientists, and technology experts to support our growing aerospace, aeronautics, defense, and homeland security industries,” said Fritz. “I’m excited to be part of ColoradoFIRST because it reminds us all of the inspiration and innovation that have made our nation first on so many technology fronts. I have witnessed the power of this program to unify kids of widely varied backgrounds around a common positive goal that requires all of their creativity and skill sets.”

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Norton, Fritz, and Cozzens will attend the ceremonies and competitions of the ColoradoFIRST event, which takes place March 26th and 27th at the University of Denver's Daniel Ritchie Center. A complete schedule is listed below. For more information on the event, please contact Dick Pankoski at 303-322-1575.

Friday, March 26th

9:00am - 12:00 noon	Opening Ceremonies/ Tours of Team Pit Areas/ Competition Opening speech by Lt. Governor Jane Norton
1:00pm - 5:30pm	Competition/ Tours of Team Pit Areas/ Awards Ceremony

Saturday, March 27th

9:00am - 12:00 noon	Opening Ceremonies/ Tours of Team Pit Areas/ Competition
1:00pm - 4:00pm	Competition/ Awards Ceremony

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